

**Price of a barrel
of petroleum
today:**
US\$ 53.98

INSIDE TODAY

U.S. NEWS

**Insurers offer to
stop charging sick
people more**

See Page B3

WORLD NEWS

LABOR COALITION



Israel's Labor Party leader Ehud Barak gestures, during a meeting of the party's central committee in Tel Aviv, Tuesday, March 24, 2009.

See *INTERNATIONAL NEWS*

SPORTS NEWS

CLASSIC CHAMPS



Japan's Ichiro Suzuki celebrates with the trophy after beating South Korea, 5-3, in the final of the World Baseball Classic in Los Angeles, Monday, March 23, 2009.

See *Sports Today*

AHATA-member hotels continue to make a positive impression on guests

Occidental Grand Aruba rated among 'Top 10 all-inclusive beach resorts'



ORANJESTAD — The charmed combination of location, luxury and an abundance of activity, dining and entertainment options continue to draw both guests as well as accolades for the Occidental Grand Aruba Resort. A recent rave review, from ShermansTravel, placed Occidental Aruba within the Top Ten of All-Inclusive Beach Resorts in the Caribbean and Mexico.

The digital travel guide of ShermansTravel, which informs travelers on vacation deals and destinations, recently reviewed the best in all-inclusive options, with Occidental Aruba topping the list. The

Occidental Grand Aruba Resort, located on Aruba's Palm Beach, is praised as an "all-inclusive gem", offering a "blissfully cash-free adventure" complete with world-class accommodations, idyllic beach and an opportunity to wine, dine and delight in numerous guest offerings. According to ShermansTravel, Occidental Grand Aruba is rated on par with such exclusive resorts as Jamaica's Golden Eye, Barbados' Almond Beach Village and Sandals Royal Bahamian.

Lauded, in particular, for its deluxe trappings of lagoon-style pool, casino, Las Vegas-style shows and six dining

options, Occidental Grand Aruba features 380 well-appointed rooms and "more activities on offer than the island has Divi-divi trees".

The Occidental Grand Aruba, a resort-member of the Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association (AHATA), complements the island's diverse range of accommodations, with luxury conveyed in high-end resort properties, timeshare resorts as well as all-inclusive options.

With an ability to impress new visitors as well as meet the high expectations of its return guests, Aruba remains a top tourism destination for memorable vacations. □



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Loyal visitors honored at the Caribbean Palm Village Resort



NOORD - Recently at the Caribbean Palm Village Resort, Aruba vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished

Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of goodwill title. The recent honorings were effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority associate Ricardo Croes at the Caribbean Palm Village Resort which they call their home away from home. David & Jane Brylski, Ron & Gerry Brylski and also Mike & Janice

Kelleher were honored as an Distinguished Visitors for the Island of Aruba after coming to the Island for 11 years and also Robert Kropff was honored as an Ambassador of Goodwill after visiting Aruba for 21 years.
 Pictured: Mr. Ricardo Croes together with honorees and Gwendolyn from the Caribbean Palm Village Resort. □



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Loyal visitors honored at the Aruba Beach Club Resort



ORANJESTAD - Recently at the Aruba Beach Club vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of goodwill title. The recent honoring were effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority associate Ricardo

Croes at the Aruba Beach Club they call their home away from home. The following visitors were honored as Ambassadors of Goodwill after visiting Aruba for 30 years: Leonard & Shari Dress, Pete & Joan Christopoulos, Nick & Mary Kanelos, Richard & Beverly Ward, Alice Moller, Arthur & Patricia Weis and also Marcia & David Schotz

Pictured Mr. Ricardo Croes together with all honorees and also Staff Giel & Mansur from the Aruba Beach Club. □



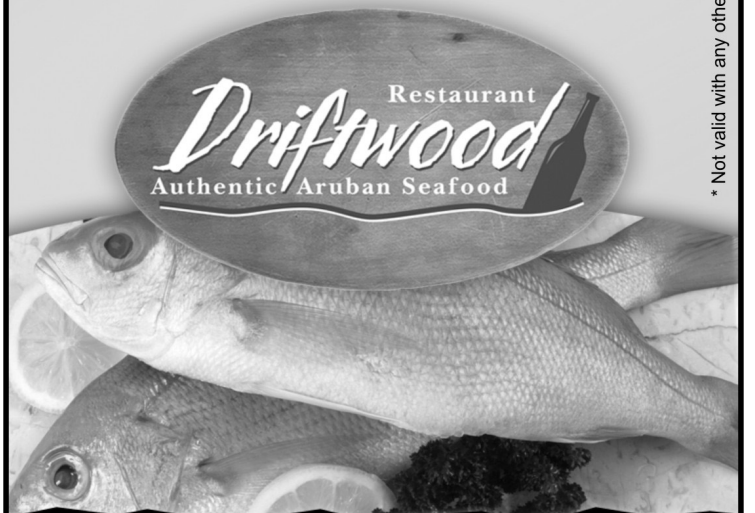
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delicious choices." Carolina Raven, Marketing Manager of T.G.I. Friday's® in Aruba says. "T.G.I. Friday's® has conquered the traditional chicken dish by adding the great taste and flavor of Friday's to every bite. Experience an abundance of

exciting chicken dishes that are so tempting you will want to try them all."

Customers can choose from five chicken entrées and one dessert, made to complement all of the Sensational menu items.

Triple Chicken Sampler

This big-enough-to-share appetizer platter features a trio of sensational flavors: Our spicy Buffalo Wings, complete with marinara sauce, celery sticks and Bleu Cheese dressing; Sesame Jack Chicken Strips served with our famous Jack Daniel's® sauce; and Parmesan-Crusted Chicken Quesadillas drizzled with balsamic glaze and served with marinara.

Jack Daniel's® Chicken



Two juicy chicken breasts basted in a sweet, savory glaze. Served with seasonal vegetables, cheddar cheese mashed potatoes and our original Jack Daniel's® sauce.

Sizzling Chicken & Cheese

A sizzling skillet of onions and peppers together with garlic-marinated chicken breast over melted Colby and Jack cheeses. Served with

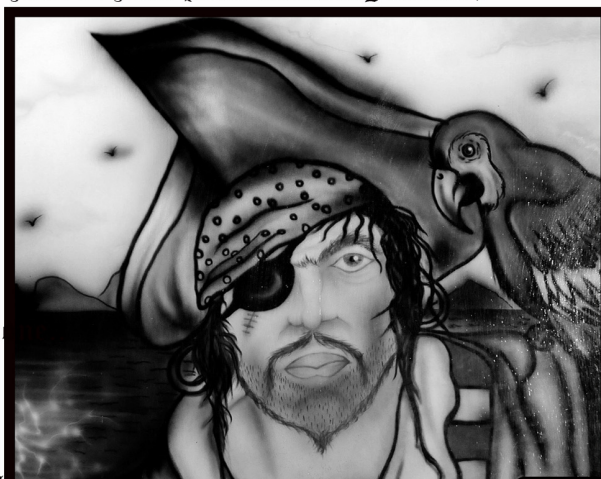


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About T.G.I. Friday's®

Forty years after the first restaurant opened in New York City, T.G.I. Friday's®

restaurants are recognized as one of the premier icons in American casual dining. The menu has grown to include trend-setting appetizers such as its famous Loaded Potato Skins, entrée salads, pasta dishes, deli-style sandwiches and char-grilled items such as the Jack Daniel's® chicken, steak and salmon.

“We are excited to bring the concept of ‘casual dining’ to Aruba. T.G.I. Friday's® is the perfect place for a fun, carefree experience where you can enjoy excellent food and drink and have fun with your friends and family,” Raven says.

In addition to its generous American-style menu, T.G.I. Friday's® also serve dishes that reflect local tastes and customs.

The casual feel of T.G.I. Friday's® is also found in its spirited American décor which celebrates modern classic icons from the 1970s and 1980s. The restaurant's



use of brushed metal, rich dark woods, warm wall tones and bold, modern, wall graphics blend together to create a fun and relaxing environment. Additionally, the bar area, with its rock-n-roll memorabilia and fun, colorful ceiling has long been a hangout for patrons who enjoy watching T.G.I. Friday's® high-octane bartenders flip bottles with style ... also know as “flair

tending”.

Built upon a legacy of a fun experience and fantastic food and drink, T.G.I. Friday's® restaurants provide an environment in 59 countries around the world. For more information about T.G.I. Friday's® and the Sensational Menu, please contact Carolina Raven at 586-8443 or e-mail her at carolina@fridaysaruba.com. □



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Prime Minister of the Dutch Antilles visits the Occidental Grand



PALM BEACH – Most recently the Prime Minister of the Dutch Antilles Mrs. Emily de Jongh-Elhage was on the Island of Aruba. Mrs. De Jongh-Elhage was here as a guest of the Aruban government in conjunction with the celebration of Aruba day which was March 18th. While on her official trip to the Island Mrs. De Jongh-Elhage stayed at the Occidental Grand Aruba, the Prime Minister





was well received by the hotel General Manager Mr. Jesus Cardoso and Director of Sales Mrs. Janith Agunbero. The Prime Minister enjoyed a wonderful lunch in a very classy and luxurious setting. The Prime Minister of the Dutch Antilles was charmed with the service and the beauty of the hotel here on Aruba. And as always Mrs. De Jngh-Elhage had a great time here on her state visit. On the photos you can see when she is being received at the hotel by the hotel Manager Mr. Jesus Cardoso, and standing next to Minister Marisol Lopez-Tromp of Aruba

By: Darrell J. Busby





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Beachside Dining in the 'just right' atmosphere

Matthew's gets it right

EAGLE BEACH – Located at Casa del Mar resort in Eagle Beach, Matthew's is the brain child of Stefan Legger, who owned and operate Rumba Bar & Grill for 6 years. Matthew's redefines the concept of a beach-side restaurant, delivering an exquisite blend of fine dining and comfort food with that 'sand on

your toes' feeling. The staff is extremely friendly and demonstrate very clearly that they are there for one thing; you.

Also being a very wanted venue for events and weddings, it very advisable to call and make a reservation, but if you want to just give it a go, no problem. Matthew's has a great bar which will


keep you abreast of all the action, whether it's sports on one of their 3 TV's, or what cocktails the bartenders can whip up for you. Besides breakfast, lunch and dinner, Matthew's offers all you can eat spareribs on Tuesdays, Champagne brunch on Sundays and of course their famous daily happy hours with live music at the bar.



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Daily from 7:30am till 10:00pm

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Noon - 1:00pm
4:00pm - 6:00pm (with live music)
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ARUBA

Hard Rock Cafe is "over the top" for fun, food and reviving great memories

The official opening of **Hard Rock Cafe Aruba** in January had all the glitz and glamour of any Hollywood carpet event, and the newest addition to this world famous brand of casual eateries is an entertaining journey through musical history, as well as offering a guaranteed great meal at a very reasonable price. Music is so much a part of our lives, often interwoven with the landmark moments; the first kiss, a marriage proposal, the first dance as man and wife. How many times have you heard or said, "Honey, they are playing our song!" Hard Rock has all those great

songs and videos in their play list, enveloping patrons in a world of music that brings back those special memories of moments that changed one's life. Founded by Isaac Tigrett and Peter Morton in 1971 and located right next door to Eric Clapton's recording studio in London, the first **Hard Rock Cafe** became an instant hit with those that loved a good "old-fashioned American hamburger" and started a legend, resulting in one of the largest and most successful leisure franchises existing today. Hard Rock's remarkable music memorabilia collection began with a red fender given

Aruba's Flavour



the founders by Eric Clapton, to mark his special table where he came to dine on a daily basis. Not to be outdone, other great names such as The Who followed his example; eventually leading to the assortment of music memorabilia that includes anything from a lock of hair to a five-ton psychedelic bus. In **Aruba** you find no buses, but a fascinating collection of instruments, posters, wild and wicked costumes and

other miscellaneous items, many of them autographed by the legendary performers they commemorate. Dozens of bits of memorabilia and high definition plasma screens create the music world ambiance that defines **Hard Rock Cafe**, as well as their diverse menu of fresh fajitas, authentic western barbecue, and of course, their famous certified Angus beef burgers, huge and juicy, the way a burger was meant to be.

Owners of the **Hard Rock Cafe Aruba** are particularly proud of the double bar that serves both inside and out; a stunning canopied terrace allows them to take full advantage of Aruba's famous tropical breezes and agreeable climate. Opening night featured The Wailers, the famous band that made their name with Bob Marley, direct from Jamaica. The appearance of such noted groups and live rock tributes are a trademark of **Hard Rock Cafés** around the world. **Hard Rock Cafe Aruba** is located in the South Beach Mall across from the Radisson Resort and open seven days a week, from 10:00 AM in the morning until 1:00 AM Sunday through Thursday and until 2:00 AM on the weekends. It is comforting to know there is a great place to go for late night munching and fun times within an easy stroll from all the Palm Beach Resorts offering not only quality food and beverage at reasonable prices, but a musical trip down **Memory Lane!**

The trendiest coffees on Aruba

Segafredo at South Beach Centre

PALM BEACH – Recently Segafredo very quietly opened its doors in the new South Beach Mall, right across from the High Rise Hotels. They have been a raving success from day one, not a surprise to anyone as Segafredo is one of the world's trendiest and recognized coffee brands.

Segafredo is opened from 6AM for the early starters until midnight. You'll find the Grand Opening Specials below, they are made just for you! They will serve you the best Segafredo coffees during the morning to get you going, during lunch you will find fresh panini sandwiches, pizza, lasagna and salads. Night time at Segafredo's promises special coffees, martini's, longdrinks and of course beer on one of the trendiest locations on the island. General Manager Maarten Alberts has trained his staff to utter perfection on how to make the best coffees, and it shows. Served by the most courteous staff on the island, the morning espressos and cappuchinos are put in front of you with every attention to detail. We invite you to start your day in the best way possible; at Segafredo.





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To make reservations call 586-1603 or go to www.redsail-aruba.com. Be sure to visit one of Red Sail Sports' stores for the latest in swimwear, beach essentials, T-shirts and souvenirs.

The Excelsior Casino Winner's Circle



Everyone is a winner at the Excelsior Casino. The Excelsior Casino is located in the Holiday Inn Resort, a 600 room facility. The Casino has been in existence for 30 years; 50% of our guests come from the United States, 30% from South America and the balance from Europe. The beautiful Excelsior Casino will satisfy your

taste for games of chance. One of Aruba's finest casinos, the Excelsior Casino features Las Vegas style gambling of all games of chance as well as a beautiful sports betting area and poker room. The Excelsior Casino is the only casino in Aruba to offer 3-4-5 times odds on Craps and Double Deck Blackjack. Spanish 21 and Blackjack can

be delt out of a shoe at your request. And, most of all, the Excelsior Casino does not hit the soft 17. The Excelsior Casino features the largest Poker Room with limits as low as \$2-\$4 to \$50-\$100 no limit. No need to carry coins to the cashier! The Excelsior Casino's state of the art slot machines are totally Ticket-In, Ticket-Out. ☐



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At Papillon in the Village

Werner celebrates birthday in style



Photo by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro

PALM BEACH - Belgian-born island personality Werner

Vennen celebrated his birthday at The Village in front of his

restaurant Papillon that he co-owns with Peter Balliere. He welcomed friends to a unique cocktail setting in the middle of the venue where guest enjoyed the most fabulous hors d'oeuvres created by their very own kitchen. There was an endless flow of champagne to celebrate

another year of Werner's life. Many friends including Luc van Eetvelde, a co-owner in the original Le Dome restaurant

celebrated along with Werner and Peter.

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~

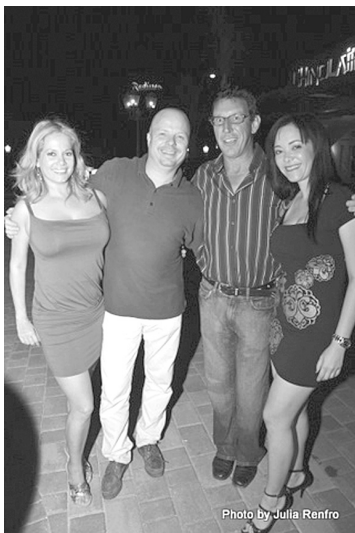


Photo by Julia Renfro



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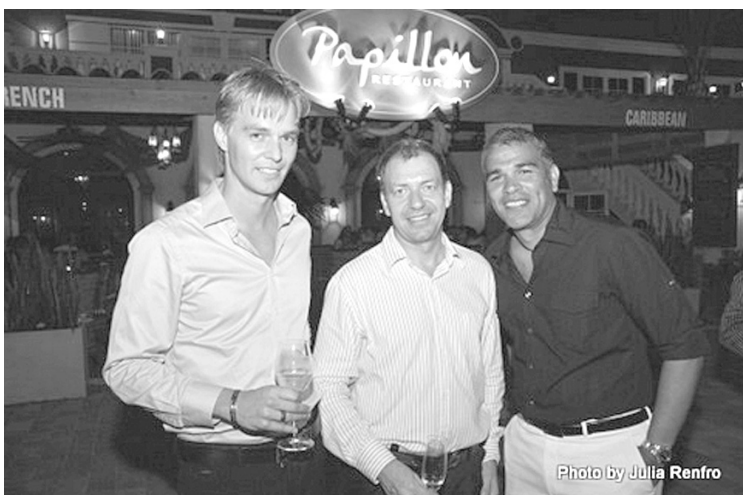


Photo by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro

Missed and met deadlines focus of Curaçao meeting

AIRPORT--The list of tasks to be completed before country status can be attained by St. Maarten is long and can even be described as daunting, but Constitutional Affairs Commissioner Sarah Wescot-Williams says all eyes are on the prizes and goals will be met.

Meeting goals has been a challenge for St. Maarten. Several deadlines listed

in the Westin Resort Agreement of November 24, 2008, have not been met for various reasons, but the Commissioner does not expect this will slow the constitutional train, as talks with the Central and Dutch Governments continue in Curaçao later this week.

The April 1 deadline for the Island Government to make a takeover offer to Central

Government employees working in St. Maarten will be missed, because all needed information has not been received from the Central Government, the Commissioner told The Daily Herald.

Deadlines have also been affected by Parliament, because the legislative body is still to ratify law proposals to allow the

transfer of employees from the Central to the Island Government. How soon the law proposals will be handled by parliament is an answer that should be had from this week's meetings. The transfer, if agreed on by all parties, can take place without the formalising of the amendments as a means of keeping the process on track, the Commissioner

said. If this is done, Parliament can make the transfer officially at a later date.

St. Maarten met the January deadline for the completion of the organisation of Country St. Maarten. This plan outlines the government structure through ministries.

Wescot-Williams and her delegation comprising politicians and technocrats left Monday afternoon for the Political Steering Group meeting in Curaçao on Wednesday and Thursday. The Commissioner and advisors will have another round of talks with the Council of Ministers today, Tuesday. A similar meeting took place via video conference last week Friday.

A joint session with the Curaçao Island Government and the Council of Ministers is also planned. A preparatory meeting for the political steering group gathering also will take place.

The official agenda for the steering group meeting still has to be finalised, but the Netherlands Antilles Safety Plan, as promised by Dutch State Secretary of Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten in February, and funds for justice projects will be featured items. □



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Wall Street gives up some ground after huge gains

By MADLEN READ and TIM PARADIS,

AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — A stock drop is never reassuring — except when it could have been worse. The Dow Jones industrial average shed 115 points, or 1.5 percent Tuesday. But it also held on to 382 of the 498 points it racked up a day earlier.

Anyone with a 401(k) would have liked to see the rally continue. Market analysts said, though, that a pullback was expected given the massive gains Wall Street logged the day before when the government released plans to remove bad loans from banks' books.

"We'll take that trading pattern any time," said Arthur Hogan, chief market analyst at Jefferies & Co. He said he came into work anticipating the Dow to drop as much as 2 percent Tuesday after the index jumped 6.8 percent Monday — its biggest gain since late October. The Dow was up more than 1,200 points after hitting nearly 12-year lows on March 9, and there was little in a way of positive economic or corporate data Tuesday to lift stocks further.

If Wall Street gets more good news, stocks could resume their rise. But if it doesn't, the rest of Monday's rally, and then some, could be wiped out. Investors have been cautious, recalling the 20 percent rise between late November and January that fizzled, with stocks then tumbling to new lows on fears about the economy and banking system.

Later this week, some big economic reports are scheduled to come out: durable goods for February, a revised fourth-quarter gross domestic product number, and personal income and spending for February. And next month, first-quarter earnings reports start pouring in.

Thomas J. Lee, a stock market analyst at JPMorgan, said the market's ability to hang on to most of its rally was encouraging. But, he added, "This has definitely been a show-me market."

The Dow fell 115.89, or 1.5 percent, to 7,659.97. The index fell in early trading, rose briefly in afternoon trading, and then turned lower again.

Broader stock indicators also tumbled. The Standard &

Poor's 500 index fell 16.63, or 2 percent, to 806.25, and the Nasdaq fell 39.25 points, or 2.5 percent, to 1,516.52.

Before the market's retrenchment Tuesday, stocks had spiked about 20 percent over the course of 10 days on actions out of Washington and nascent signs of economic renewal.

Recent reports on retail sales, housing starts and inflation have all topped traders' bleak expectations. Last week, the Fed said it would buy long-term government debt to help drive down interest rates for home loans and credit cards. And the government sparked new hopes for further improvement Monday after it detailed plans for a mix of taxpayer and private money to help banks get rid of up to \$1 trillion in bad loans from their books.

Investors again looked to Washington for direction on Tuesday, but got few additional details.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner made a rare joint appearance at a congressional hearing to testify over bonuses at American International Group Inc. Geithner called on Congress to provide him with greater power to safely dismantle big financial companies like AIG that pose risks to the economy.

The bulk of Tuesday's market retreat was in financial stocks — the companies that have been rising the most recently.

Citigroup Inc. fell 3.5 percent Tuesday; Bank of America Corp. fell 7.2 percent; JPMorgan Chase & Co. fell 8.6 percent; and American Express Co. fell 3.8 percent. These four Dow components had surged on Monday.

The problems in the overall economy are bad for banks: The unemployment rate sits at 8.1 percent, the highest level since the punishing recession of the early 1980s. And housing prices continue to fall, putting more homeowners at risk of owing more on their homes than they are worth. Rising numbers of people out of work or behind on mortgages could further imperil bank assets.

It also won't be easy to wean the economy from a diet of excessive debt. Some businesses and consumers are struggling to pay down what they owe.

They're cutting spending, which is hurting other parts of the economy. Phil Orlando, chief equity market strategist at Federated Investors in New York, said many traders are pleased by the government's plan to help banks but said that signs of an improving economy will be needed for the market to hold its gains. □

The Dow Jones Industrial Average is seen on a digital display at the New York Stock Exchange March 23, 2009. U.S. stocks surged around 7 percent on Monday after the Obama administration detailed a plan to purge toxic assets from bank balance sheets, fueling optimism about a revival in bank lending and driving double-digit gains in financial shares.

REUTERS/Shannon Stapleton (UNITED STATES BUSINESS)



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Got Energy?

By: Dr Carlos Viana

Everyone today seems to be concerned about energy. Our automobiles will not travel far without it. For our primary transportation to work, we know that raw petroleum must be refined to make gasoline or diesel fuel. This produces a form of energy which moves our vehicles. In our bodies, glucose, amino acids, and fats from our food are the raw materials that must be processed by our cells into fuel. Your body's primary manufactured fuel is Adenosine Triphosphate (ATP), which provides the energy for our body's movement and vital functions.

Even with a good diet, your body may need additional nutritional supplementation of vitamin C, magnesium, zinc, lecithin or choline and Ribose to produce ATP or energy. Ribose is a simple sugar that is the backbone of ribo-nucleic acid (RNA) and deoxyribo-nucleic acid (DNA), the materials our body uses to pass on our genetic code from one generation to the next. DNA and RNA are also necessary daily to regenerate and repair our body's cells. A healthy body can manufacture its own ribose from dietary sugars; however this requires a lot of energy and

is a slow process. Diabetics, individuals with chronic degenerative diseases and people who lead extremely active or stressful lives are not naturally producing sufficient quantities of ribose to fully aid the body in these vital processes.

ATP moves nutrients into and waste out of the cells and gives our muscles strength or energy to move and also to relax. ATP also detoxifies your body and produces signals that stimulate hormones. Without fuel your car does not move. Similarly, without an abundant supply of ATP your body becomes stiff, and joints become sore as in arthritis.

Lupus, a disease which includes muscle loss or wasting, Chronic Fatigue Syndromes, cataracts, and autoimmune disorders like fibromyalgia are all symptoms of a deficiency of ATP due to a chronic lack of ribose. In our clinic I have seen an improvement in muscle soreness, and cramping from people with these and other conditions as well as from intensive athletic workouts by adjusting their diets and adding quality supplements, especially Ribose. In older individuals we see an improvement in muscle health and in all groups we see a reduction of

debilitating fatigue.

As a board certified clinical nutritionist, I have also prescribed Ribose to heart deficiency patients that could not climb more than a couple of steps. The heart, as a muscle responds positively to Ribose supplementation that increases ATP in muscles. ATP contributes to a measurable increase in cardiovascular strength. After a week on ribose supplementation, patients have reported being able to comfortably climb a flight of stairs again.

A good diet for one's metabolic type and supplementation with D-Ribose has been positively shown to improved health and fitness. Not only people with cardiovascular problems, but athletes who deplete their energy reserves can benefit from Ribose supplementation to reduce training cramping and soreness. Reports have shown Ribose can even lower blood sugar levels and is also known to alleviate altitude sickness and Pre Menstrual cramping.

Muscle stiffness or pain results from not only physical exertion but is generally believed to be a symptom of aging. Instead of pain medication I first do an analysis with blood or other test to check the health of the

person and then make sure they are drinking sufficient amounts of water. We then recommend acupuncture treatments to relive stress and relax muscles naturally. We also use selenium and Vitamin E to help to maintain good health and, protect the integrity of muscle cells. Antioxidants, work to scavenge free radicals that damage muscle cells under stress.

Get the Point! Stiffness, fatigue or exhaustion can be an obstruction to a happy and healthy life. D-Ribose which has been shown to help your body make the energy it needs for improved health and fitness. Looking to nature and technology for new and better ways to fuel our vehicles, homes and economy is important for our health and our planet. Finding new and improved ways to improve the quality of your body's energy source is an important place to start. Instead of soft drinks or endless cups of coffee, to keep you going, a nutritional evaluation can help you learn how to eliminate waste and make more efficient fuel for your body. Come in for an energy assessment.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai,



China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270 FAX: 585-4789, Web Sight: www.vianaheal.com

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"Aruhiba" Aruba's homemade cigar



ORANJESTAD - Benjamin Petrochi has started the newest

export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called 'Aruhiba'. These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrochi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold cigars from outside, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of "Aruhiba" cigars in Aruba. The process took 5 years Petrochi's dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and



process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar case is specially designed for the cigars with the logo 'Aruhiba' and 'Made in Aruba'. Petrochi considers 'Aruhiba' a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars.

The company sells international cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and get 1 free for \$35.00. Located at the Historic Dutch



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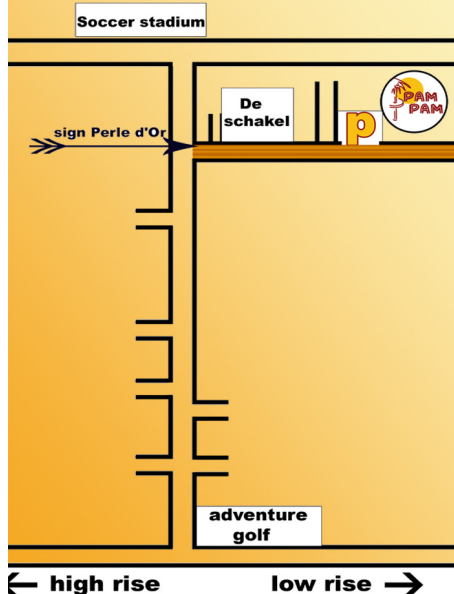
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Located in the charming tropical enverions of the Perle d'Or resort, the Pam Pam restaurant offers a peek at Aruba's cunucu (countryside) while still being conveniently located close to all of Aruba's prime resorts.

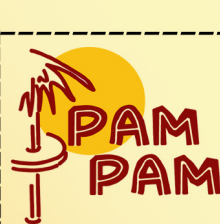
Firts-time patrons will be pleasantly surprised by an appealing a la carte menu that is quite affordably priced.



Pam Pam has the biggest menu with a choice from 26 main-couses, all priced between \$ 13 / \$ 23 (excl. discount).no service charge

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PALM BEACH - Bugaloe Beach Bar is well known for its fun and relaxed ambiance at De Palm Pier between RIU Palace and the Radisson Resort. For years the beach bar has been the place for unforgettable fun parties which have turned out to be ever lasting memories for many Aruba visitors and local residents. And the fun filled events make Bugaloe even more special!

Live music

Three times a week Bugaloe is the stage for live concerts. On Tuesday from 5-8pm the band JOYRIDE will celebrate sunset with hot Latin tunes. Fridays is also a big hit as LOTUS will ease out the week from 5-8pm with the greatest ballads from the 80's and 90's. MARISELA

& Aquarius Band is already for many years the happening on Sundays. From 6-9.30pm they will for sure put you on party course. Bugaloe is the hottest place to be cool and the coolest place to be hot!

Salsa Workshop

As of Wednesday February 25th Bugaloe will host a weekly FREE Salsa & Meringue Workshop!" From 7.30-8.30pm Reggie and Sabine from Aruba-Salsa will show you the ins and outs of Latin dancing. Their motto: Everybody can dance! From 7-10pm a salsa live band will invite you on the dance floor or if you prefer, you can watch your friends' dance moves from the bar. Fun guaranteed! For more information, call Bugaloe at (297) 586 2233.



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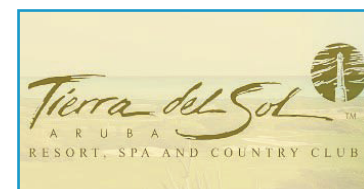
Golf tournament

A new tradition is born! The first Bugaloe Open is scheduled for Saturday April 25th, 2009. Golfers from Aruba and around the world will participate in this two players scramble golf tournament with motto: Fun, friends... and golf! In a relaxed ambience and organized in every detail, the Bugaloe Open will welcome any golfer, no matter what handicap one has. You can already sign up at the Pro Shop of Tierra del Sol, where the event will take place on its 18 holes golf course. The tournament will

be completed with a splashing party at Bugaloe Beach Bar and with a delicious dinner buffet.

For more information, call Tierra del Sol at (297) 586 0978 or send an email to:

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healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge. The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables

may be standard for most salad bars, but Texas de Brazil's version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, home-made soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal. For more information or to make reservations please call 586-4686 .

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A Mexican marine stands guard along the U.S.-Mexico border in Tijuana, Mexico, Wednesday, March 18, 2009. The administration of President Barack Obama is preparing to send federal agents to the US-Mexico border as reinforcements in the fight against Mexican drug cartels.

Associated Press

White House steps up anti-cartel fight on border

By **DEVLIN BARRETT** and **EILEEN SULLIVAN**
Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. is sending more money, technology and manpower to help Mexico fight drug cartels and keep violence from spilling across the southwestern border, Obama administration officials said Tuesday. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton plans to travel to Mexico on Wednesday for the start of several weeks of high-level meetings between the two countries on the drug violence issue. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and Attorney General Eric Holder are expected to meet with Mexican officials in early April.

Violent turf battles among the cartels have wreaked havoc in Mexico in recent years and led to a spate of kidnappings and home invasions in some U.S. cities.

The Obama administration's multi-agency plan includes nearly 500 agents and support personnel. However, officials did not say where the additional agents would come from or how long they would stay at the border.

Napolitano said officials were still considering whether to deploy the National Guard to the Arizona and Texas borders with Mexico, which the governors had requested.

Deputy Attorney General David Ogden said the combined efforts of the U.S. and Mexican governments would "destroy these criminal

organizations."

Rep. Lamar Smith, the senior Republican on the House Judiciary Committee, said he was happy to see the administration getting more aggressive with the cartels, but he worried about what would see less attention in the U.S. "I am concerned that when you're taking almost 500 law enforcement agents from one place to another, wherever place they're leaving is going to be understaffed and will mean that some laws are not being enforced," said Smith, who is from the border state of Texas.

Authorities said they will increase the number of immigrations and customs agents, drug agents and antigun trafficking agents operating along the border. The government also will allow federal funds to be used to pay for local law enforcement involved in southwestern border operations, and send more U.S. officials to work inside Mexico.

Prosecutors say they will make a greater effort to go after those smuggling guns and drug profits from the U.S. into Mexico.

Napolitano acknowledged that the fight against the drug cartels is not just in Mexico but in the U.S. where the drugs are sold.

"This is a supply issue, and it's a demand issue," she said. To address the demand, she cited funding set aside for drug courts in the recent stimulus package.

Continued on Page B5



Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, right, and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke arrive on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, March 24, 2009, to testify before a House Financial Services Committee hearing on AIG.

Associated Press

Fed, Treasury chiefs grilled in Congress

By **STEVEN R. HURST**

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The two top U.S. financial officials argued Tuesday in rare joint testimony in Congress that the Obama administration must be granted the broad power to seize failing nonbank financial institutions, gobble up bad debts and sell good ones to healthy competitors.

Continued on Page B4



This Sept. 1971 file photo shows of a nuclear bomb detonated at the Mururoa atoll, French Polynesia. The French government is offering compensation to thousands of people who suffered health problems as a result of nuclear tests in Algeria and the South Pacific, the French Defense Minister Herve Morin said Tuesday March 24, 2009.

Associated Press

France to compensate nuclear test victims

By **ANGELA CHARLTON**

Associated Press Writer

PARIS (AP) — The French government offered for the first time Tuesday to compensate victims of nuclear tests in Algeria and the South Pacific, bowing to decades of pressure by people sickened by radiation — and seeking to soothe France's conscience.

Continued on Page B6

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Insurers offer to stop charging sick people more

By **RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR**,
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The health insurance industry offered Tuesday for the first time to curb its controversial practice of charging higher premiums to people with a history of medical problems.

The offer from America's Health Insurance Plans and the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association is a potentially significant shift in the debate over reforming the nation's health care system to rein in costs and cover an estimated 48 million uninsured people. It was contained in a letter to key senators.

In the letter, the two insurance industry groups said their members are willing to "phase out the practice of varying premiums based on health status in the individual market" if all Americans are required to get coverage.

"The offer here is to transition away from risk rating, which is one of the things that makes life hell for real people," said health economist Len Nichols of the New America Foundation public policy center. "They have never in their history offered to give up risk rating."

Insurers are trying to head off the creation of a government insurance plan that would compete with them, something that liberals and many Democrats are pressing for. To try to win political support, the industry has already made a number of concessions. Last year, for example, insurers offered to end the practice of denying coverage to sick people. They also said they would support a national goal of restraining cost increases. The latest offer goes beyond that.

Insurance companies now charge very high premiums

to people who are trying to purchase coverage as individuals and have a history of medical problems, such as diabetes or skin cancer. Even if such a person is offered coverage, that individual is often unable to afford the high premiums. About 7 percent of Americans buy their coverage as individuals, while more than 60 percent have job-based insurance.

"This changes everything," said Karen Ignagni, president of America's Health Insurance Plans, the leading trade group. "When you have everyone in the system, and you can bring (financial) assistance to working families, then you can move away health status rating."

The companies left themselves several outs, however. The

letter said they would still charge different premiums based on such factors as age, place of residence, family size and benefits package.

And importantly, the industry did not extend to small businesses their offer to stop charging the sick higher premiums. Small employers who offer coverage can see their premiums zoom up from one year to the next, even if just one worker or family member gets seriously ill.

Ignagni said the industry is working on separate proposals for that problem.

"We are in the process of talking with small business folks across the country," she said. "We are well on the way to proposing a series of strategies that could be implemented for them."



A homeless man with no health insurance, who is suffering from an overactive thyroid which causes the muscles behind his eye to swell, collects change on a subway platform in New York City. President Barack Obama will Tuesday give Americans an honest assessment of their grim economic plight but conjure up hopes of a brighter future on the grand stage of his debut address to Congress.

(AFP/Getty Images/File/Mario Tama)

Gainesville, Florida, votes on gay rights

By **RON WORD**

Associated Press Writer

GAINESVILLE, Florida (AP) — Voters in this university city are deciding Tuesday whether to strike down the local government's anti-discrimination protections for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender residents.

The fight began after the city commission last year revised Gainesville's anti-discrimination ordinance to protect transgender people — those who are born one sex but identify with the other. That allows the city's approximately 100 transgender residents to use the public restroom of their choice, along with protecting them from job and housing

discrimination.

The charter amendment on Tuesday's ballot would void the city's ordinances barring discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Those supporting repeal say their message has remained consistent: "Keep men out of women's restrooms!"

"That's our motive, plain and simple," said Jim Gilbert, a spokesman for Citizens for Good Public Policy.

On the other side, a group known as Equality is Gainesville's Business is campaigning for a "no" vote. It argues that the city ordinance does not need amending and that the transgender argument is really a screen for a larger

attack on sexual minorities. Home to the University of Florida, Gainesville is generally considered a gay-friendly city surrounded by conservative north Florida. "This is about attacking the gay, lesbian, bisexual community and repealing protections that are in place," said Joe Saunders, a spokesman for Equality is Gainesville's Business. If passed, the measure would also prohibit the city from enforcing anti-discrimination laws that protect other categories of people not specified by the Florida Civil Rights Act, which recognizes race, color, creed, religion, gender, national origin, age, handicap, marital and familial status. □

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House Financial Services Committee Chairman Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., left, talks with Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, right, and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, March 24, 2009, prior to the start of the committee's hearing on AIG.

Associated Press

FED TREASURY CHIEF Continued from Page B1

In questioning before Congress to justify unprecedented bailout measures, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke also faced grilling about their handling of one such company, American International Group Inc. The insurance colossus paid out big bonuses to employees even after sustaining record losses for a U.S. company and taking a whopping \$180 billion in government assistance.

Bernanke defended the action to prop up AIG, saying catastrophe loomed over the global economy if it collapsed.

"Its failure could have resulted in a 1930s-style global financial and economic meltdown, with catastrophic implications for production, income and jobs," Bernanke said, referring to the decade of the Great Depression.

Geithner told the House of Representatives panel that the worldwide financial crisis requires that he be granted

unprecedented power — after consultation with the president and after securing backing from two-thirds of the Federal Reserve Board — enabling the Treasury Department to take control of a major financial institution like AIG and run it.

Along with the new authority to regulate and, if necessary, take over giant financial companies whose collapse might endanger the broader economy, the administration wants increased oversight and controls of previously unregulated markets such as hedge and private equity funds.

Obama told reporters after an Oval Office meeting with Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd that he was "very confident" the U.S. will work in concert with other nations to stabilize the global financial system.

He also said that he hoped "it doesn't take too long" to convince Congress to approve new authority.

Obama heads to London next week for a meeting on the global crisis with the leaders of the Group of 20 major world economies.

Last week, Obama signaled

his administration would propose new financial industry oversight that includes a "resolution authority" with powers similar to those of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., which can seize control of banks, take over their bad assets and sell the good ones to competitors.

Obama spoke even as he prepared for a televised prime-time news conference Tuesday night in which he will tell Americans and the country's business community that excessive bonus and compensation payments are "of bygone days," according to his spokesman.

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs also said in television interviews Tuesday morning that the president will emphasize in opening remarks that all Americans — workers, investors and corporate titans — must understand their interdependence and work together to pull the country out of its worst financial and economic crisis in more than 50 years.

In an opening statement Bernanke sought to blunt congressional attacks on his handling of AIG by saying he had wanted to sue to stop

the insurance giant from paying millions in bonuses, but was talked out of it by legal staff. They counseled, he said, against suing because Connecticut law provides for substantial punitive damages if the suit would fail. AIG's financial products division has a base in Connecticut.

The broad powers sought by Geithner would allow Treasury to set up a conservatorship or receivership for the ailing company. The government would have the power to take control of the firm and sell or transfer parts of it to reduce its risky position, the document said. The secretary also would be allowed to make loans, buy assets, guarantee loans and take equity stakes to help stabilize the company.

He said such powers could have headed off the government's need to bail out of AIG to the tune of more than \$180 billion. The company recently paid at least \$165 million in bonuses to employees who worked in a division that has been blamed for the insurance company's near-collapse last year. The bonuses were paid even as AIG reported a stunning \$62 billion loss, the biggest in U.S. corporate history.

The House last week voted overwhelmingly to slap 90 percent taxes on the largest bonuses. Similar but more limited legislation is before the Senate.

Still, White House support for using the tax code in such a fashion has been tepid at best. And Democrats seem to be moving off the concept. □

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ANTI CARTEL

Continued from Page B1

She said these drug courts “have been very effective in reducing recidivism among drug offenders.”

The administration is also highlighting \$700 million that Congress has already approved to support Mexico’s efforts to fight the cartels.

Officials said President Barack Obama is particularly concerned about killings in Ciudad Juarez and Tijuana, and that he wants to prevent such violence from spilling over into the United States.

Among the moves the government is making:

—Sending about 350 additional personnel from the Homeland Security Department for a

host of border-related work, including doubling the border enforcement security teams that combine local, state and federal officers.

—Adding 16 new Drug Enforcement Administration positions in the southwestern region. DEA currently has more than 1,000 agents working in the region.

—Sending 100 more people from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to the border in the next 45 days.

—Boosting the FBI’s intelligence and analysis work on Mexican drug cartel crime. Napolitano said her department has already seen success with stepped-up efforts.

“For example, the communities

—the border towns themselves — some of them are actually reporting a decrease in violent crime,” she said.

In Texas, border counties and cities have largely escaped the spillover of violence that has affected cities such as Phoenix and Atlanta.

In El Paso, for instance, police responded to fewer than 20 homicides in 2008, while their counterparts across the Rio Grande in Ciudad Juarez have handled more than 2,000 killings since January 2008.

The situation is similar in Laredo, which shares a border with Nuevo Laredo, and McAllen, just across the Rio Grande from Reynosa.

The plans announced Tuesday fall short of Texas Gov. Rick

U.S. takes steps to deport alleged Nazi to Germany

By M.R. KROPKO

Associated Press Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — The U.S. government said Tuesday it is asking German officials for travel documents needed to deport accused World War II Nazi guard John Demjanjuk, who is charged in Europe with 29,000 counts of accessory to murder.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement provided an e-mail to The Associated Press showing that it has contacted the German government in its effort to deport Demjanjuk, once accused but ultimately cleared of being a notorious guard at the Treblinka concentration camp in occupied Poland.

The 88-year-old suburban Cleveland man was charged in Germany in March with crimes while working as a guard at Sobibor, a Nazi death camp in Poland.

His son, John Demjanjuk Jr., said Tuesday that his father remains at home and is not in federal custody.

The German warrant seeks the deportation or extradition of Demjanjuk, who denies involvement in any deaths.

Prosecutors in Munich, Germany, said Demjanjuk will be formally charged in front of a judge once he is extradited.

“In this capacity, he participated in the accessory to murder of at least 29,000 people of the Jewish faith,” the prosecutor’s office has said. It is handling

the case because Demjanjuk spent time at a refugee camp in the area after the war.

The suspect’s family has said he is in poor health and unable to travel.

“My dad spent a few hours in the emergency room the other day,” John Demjanjuk Jr. said. “He is being treated for kidney stones at present.”

He said his father has chronic kidney disease, along with other serious ailments.

Kurt Schrimm, head of the special German prosecutors’ office that has hunted Nazis since 1958 and who asked Munich prosecutors to pursue Demjanjuk’s extradition, declined to comment Tuesday.

Efraim Zuroff, the top Nazi hunter at the Simon Wiesenthal Center, a Los Angeles-based human rights organization, welcomed the development.

“We’re very pleased that these steps are being taken to facilitate Demjanjuk’s extradition to Germany so that he can be tried and can be given an appropriate punishment for his heinous crimes during World War II,” Zuroff told The Associated Press by phone from Jerusalem.

German Justice Ministry spokesman Ulrich Staudegle said he could not confirm that U.S. authorities had requested any specific documents, but reiterated that the German government was working closely with the U.S. to secure



In this Feb. 28, 2005 file photo, John Demjanjuk arrives at the federal building in Cleveland for an immigration hearing. The U.S. government said Tuesday March 24, 2009 that it has contacted the German government to get travel documents needed to complete the deportation of accused Nazi guard Demjanjuk.

Associated Press

Demjanjuk’s extradition or deportation.

Demjanjuk became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1958 and has never been convicted of war crimes in a domestic court. But a federal judge in Cleveland in 2002 stripped him of his U.S. citizenship, saying prosecutors proved in a trial to determine his citizenship status that he served the Nazi regime for more than two years during World War II as a guard.

He was accused in 1977 of concealing a past as a notorious Nazi death camp guard known as “Ivan the Terrible” at Treblinka. He was extradited to Israel in 1986 and two years later was sentenced to death after being found guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity. □



White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs, left, and Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, center, listen to U.S. Deputy Attorney General David Ogden, in the White House briefing room in Washington, Tuesday, March 24, 2009, talks about the administration’s response to the situation along the border with Mexico.

Associated Press

Perry’s request last month that 1,000 troops be sent to bolster border security in his state.

Perry said Tuesday that Washington has ignored the border for too long.

“We have been successful in spite of Washington’s lack of focus on the border,” said Perry, a Republican.

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, also a Republican, praised the government’s plan as “a great first step.”

While Mexico wants the U.S. take more responsibility in the drug fight, officials south of the border have also bristled at the increasing “militarization” of the border.

Mexico officials are likely to welcome the stepped up efforts north of the border, but they have argued that much of the border security added recently has made illegal immigration more dangerous and done little to nothing to crack down on the illegal weapons trade. □

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Colombia says four soldiers killed in rebel attack



The commander of Colombia's Armed Forces Gen. Freddy Padilla, left, talks to Defense Minister Juan Manuel Santos after a press conference in Bogota, Tuesday, March 24, 2009.

By VIVIAN SEQUERA
 Associated Press Writer
 BOGOTA (AP) — An attack by leftist rebels on an elite counter-guerrilla unit killed four soldiers and left six others missing in the country's southeastern plains, the defense minister announced Tuesday.

Associated Press

A platoon from the 62nd Counter-guerrilla Battalion was retrieving the bodies of two rebels killed in a bombardment when the soldiers came under mortar attack, Defense Minister Juan Manuel Santos told reporters. He said one soldier was wounded in Monday's attack by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, in an area of Guaviare state known as Cano Flauta. The Guaviare region is mostly flat, laced with rivers, thick jungle and plantations of coca, the basis for cocaine, which finances Colombia's illegal armed groups.

A lieutenant and five soldiers are missing, Santos said. The killings bring to 74 the number of Colombian soldiers killed in combat this year, according to the Defense Ministry. In addition, 28 police officers have been killed. Colombia's U.S.-backed military has made significant inroads against the FARC since 2005, when 717 soldiers and police were killed in combat by Defense Ministry count. Last year, that number dropped to 373, by official count. Military analysts have speculated that the FARC could launch serious attacks

this week, the one-year anniversary of the death of the rebel movement's founding commander, Manuel Marulanda. Colombia's news media have carried reports in recent days about the armed forces supposedly closing in on a top FARC commander named Jorge Briceño, or "Mono Jojoy" after finding caves in the Macarena mountain range just west of Guaviare believed to have served as hideouts for his fighters. Briceño is the FARC's field marshal and commands its Eastern Bloc, which operates in Guaviare. □



French Defense Minister Herve Morin speaks at the Defense Ministry Tuesday, March 24, 2009 in Paris. France plans to compensate people who suffered health problems as a result of its massive nuclear test program in the Algerian desert and on the islands of French Polynesia.

Associated Press

€10 million (\$13.5 million) for the compensation for the first year, Morin said. The U.S. government, by comparison, has approved more than \$1.38 billion in compensation to victims of nuclear tests since the enactment of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act in 1990. French army veteran Pierre Leroy recalled being present when a nuclear test explosion blasted through its containment structure and sent a radioactive cloud over the Sahara in 1962. "We were 19, 20 years old. They told us, 'There are no risks, it's not dangerous,'" he said. "There were no precautions." He described being worn down by years of subsequent government denials of negligence and refusals to compensate victims. "We're not asking for the moon," Leroy said. Some 150,000 people, including civilian and military personnel, were on site for the 210 tests France carried out, both in the atmosphere and underground, in the Sahara Desert and the South Pacific from 1960-1996. But Morin said only a few hundred were likely to be eligible for compensation, which would be decided on a case-by-case basis and granted only to those who suffered health problems related to the tests. The bill will be presented in the coming months to parliament, and while it is likely to pass,

victims' groups are pushing to add amendments to broaden the number of people eligible. Descendants of victims who have since died would be entitled to apply for payouts, Morin said. Morin said anyone with health problems who resided near the test sites would be eligible to seek payouts under the bill — including Algerians, whose country won independence from France in 1962, after the nuclear test program had started. Algerian officials and activists hoped the move would encourage broader atonement and reparation — but held back praise while waiting to see the fine print of the draft law. Abderahmane Laksassi, the head of Algeria's test victims association, called it "a good first step." He estimated that some 10,000 people have suffered disease or material losses because of the tests — including tribes of nomads whose herds could have been exposed for years. Morin defended the need for the tests at the time when France was building up its nuclear arsenal during the Cold War. These tests "allowed us to obtain an independent force of dissuasion, guaranteeing the protection of our vital interests and allowing us to be a power respected in the world alongside the other permanent members of the U.N. Security Council," Morin said. □

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| R | GRAN TORINO | daily: 4:50 | 7:25 | 9:40 |
| | | matinee: 11:55 | 2:20 | late show: 12:10 |
| R | WATCHMEN | daily: 4:40 | 7:50 | |
| | | matinee: 1:25 | | late show: 11:00 |
| PG | THE PINK PANTHER 2 | daily: 4:00 | 6:20 | 8:20 |
| | | matinee: 12:00 | 2:05 | late show: 10:20 |
| R | THE INTERNATIONAL | daily: 4:55 | 7:20 | 9:50 |
| | | matinee: 12:05 | 2:30 | late show: 12:20 |
| PG | PAUL BLART: MALL COP | daily: 4:15 | 6:20 | 8:20 |
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| R | WATCHMEN | daily: 4:40 | 8:00 | |
| | | matinee: 1:15 | | late show: 11:10 |
| R | GRAN TORINO | daily: 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:45 |
| | | matinee: 12:00 | 2:30 | late show: 12:10 |
| R | THE INTERNATIONAL | daily: 4:50 | 7:20 | 9:50 |
| | | matinee: 11:55 | 2:25 | late show: 12:15 |
| PG | PAUL BLART: MALL COP | daily: 4:15 | 6:10 | 8:10 |
| | | matinee: 12:10 | 2:15 | late show: 10:15 |
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Centrist Labor joins new Israeli government

By MARK LAVIE

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's Labor Party voted Tuesday to join the incoming government of Benjamin Netanyahu, lending a moderate voice to a coalition dominated by hard liners and easing concerns of a head-on confrontation with Washington over Mideast peacemaking.

Chants of "Disgrace! Disgrace!" echoed through the convention hall after Defense Minister Ehud Barak pushed through the proposal despite angry opposition from party activists who feared Labor would give only a superficial gloss to a government little interested in moving toward peace.

Labor's move gives Netanyahu's coalition a majority of 66 in the 120-seat parliament.

Labor's decision, by a 680-507 vote, paves the way for a broader government than the narrow and hawkish one Netanyahu would otherwise have had to settle for, increasing his chances of gaining international acceptance.

Barak was set to remain

defense minister, a key position in the new Cabinet, that could allow Labor to promote peace efforts with the Palestinians. On the other hand, the expected appointment of Avigdor Lieberman as foreign minister could overshadow Barak's input. Lieberman is widely perceived as a racist because of his demands that Israel's minority Arabs take a loyalty oath or forfeit their citizenship.

On Tuesday, Jewish extremists marched through the northern Israeli-Arab town of Umm el-Fahm, demanding residents show loyalty to Israel and setting off stone-throwing protests by Arab youths that police dispersed with stun grenades and tear gas. No serious injuries were reported, but residents denounced the march on one of Israel's largest Arab communities.

In Israel, the prime minister sets the tone for his government, and Netanyahu remains deeply skeptical about negotiations with the Palestinians. The past year of U.S.-backed talks have produced no discernible results, because the leadership of both sides appeared too weak to make the necessary

concessions on vital issues like borders, refugees and settlements.

Netanyahu claims the Palestinians are not ready for statehood and suggests economic development instead. The Palestinians reject that and have received the backing of Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. She emphasized several times during a visit here this month that the Obama administration's goal is creation of a Palestinian state that would live in peace next to Israel.

Tuesday's contentious vote drove a wedge through Barak's Labor party, opening the way for a possible split — if not now, then in the future. At least six of Labor's 13 legislators were strongly opposed to joining Netanyahu's team, and some may decide to leave the party and remain in the opposition. That could force Netanyahu to bring in at least one more hard-line party to cement his majority.

Former Labor Party leader Amir Peretz stopped just short of declaring a split. "It will be hard for us to work together, and I assume the government



Senior Israeli Labor party officials and cabinet ministers Binyamin Ben Eliezer, left, Shalom Simchon, second left, Matan Vilnai, third right, stand on stage after the party voted to join the incoming government of Prime Minister designate Benjamin Netanyahu, at the party's central committee Tel Aviv, Tuesday, March 24, 2009. Israel's Labor Party voted Tuesday to join Netanyahu's government, giving a centrist tone to the coalition that has looked hard-line up to now.

Associated Press

and Benjamin Netanyahu aren't deluding themselves that they're going to get our support," he said.

Another option to bolster Netanyahu's majority was that with Labor aboard, Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni might lead her Kadima Party into the new government, though she has resisted overtures up to now. Kadima won 28 seats in the Feb. 10 election, one more than Netanyahu's Likud.

A broader coalition would bring stability to the government because it would not be held hostage to the demands of smaller partners. It also would enjoy more

international credibility with some members committed to peace talks.

Under the proposed coalition deal with Labor, Israel would draft a comprehensive plan for Mideast peace, resume peace talks and commit itself to existing peace accords, Labor officials said.

Netanyahu has already signed coalition agreements with Yisrael Beiteinu and Shas, two parties known for their tough policy lines toward the Palestinians, as is Netanyahu's own Likud Party. Labor, in contrast, has been at the forefront of Mideast peace efforts. □

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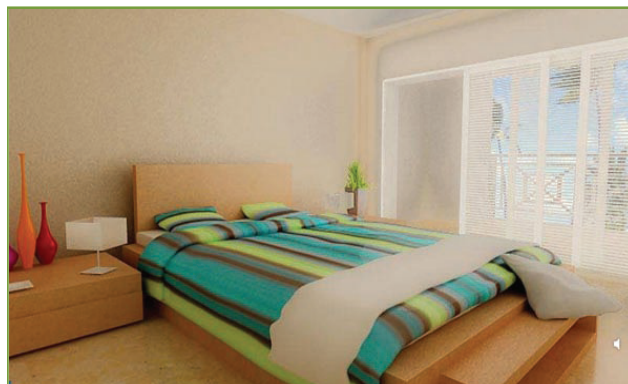


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decorations are invariably stunning. The chocolaterie's small terrace is doing a booming business as a café and cappuccinos, lattes and frappes are served with delicious pastries, cakes or sandwiches. Seated in a comfortable chair one can witness formerly drooping shoppers continue their quest revived and full of energy after a spell at Taste of Belgium



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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Ichiro Suzuki delivers as Japan wins WBC title



Japan celebrates after beating South Korea 5-3 in the final of the World Baseball Classic in Los Angeles, Monday, March 23, 2009.

Associated Press

By JOHN NADEL

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Seattle Mariners star Ichiro Suzuki hit a two-out, two-run single in the top of the 10th inning as defending champion Japan beat reigning Olympic champion South Korea 5-3 Monday night to win its second straight World Baseball Classic title.

The Japanese won the inaugural tournament three

years ago, beating Cuba 10-6 in the finals at San Diego.

“Well, we represented Japan,” manager Tatsunori Hara said through a translator. “Day-by-day, the team evolved.

“I felt like we could have scored more, but it was difficult for us to earn runs with the Korean defense.”

Japan, which outhit South Korea 15-5, blew several scoring opportunities and stranded 14 runners.

“We became No. 1 in the world,” Hara said. “The fact that two Asian countries were able to play against each other in the finals is something that we and the Koreans can be proud of.”

The 35-year-old Suzuki, an eight-time All Star, is a .331 hitter in eight seasons with the Mariners after starring in Japan.

He tied Lou Gehrig’s major league record with his eighth straight season of at least 100 runs and 200 hits last year. South Korea had tied the game at 3 with two outs in the bottom of the ninth on Lee Bum-ho’s run-scoring single off Japanese closer Yu Darvish (2-1), who got in trouble by issuing one-out walks to Kim Hyun-soo and Kim Tae-kyun, the 3-4 hitters in the lineup.

Darvish struck out Choo Shin-soo before Lee lined a 1-1 pitch into left field, with pinch-runner Lee Jong-wook scoring easily from second.

Seiichi Uchikawa opened the 10th with a single, was sacrificed to second and took third on a single by Akinori

Iwamura. After pinch-hitter Munenori Kawasaki popped out, Iwamura took second on defensive indifference.

Suzuki managed to foul off a pitch after it had bounced before lining the eighth pitch of the at-bat from Lim Chang-yong (1-1) to center for his fourth hit. The Mariners’ star entered with a .211 average and three RBIs in eight previous games.

Given the lead, Darvish worked around a leadoff walk to retire South Korea in the bottom of the 10th, setting off a wild celebration when he struck out Lee Jin-young to end the four-hour game.

“Although there is regret, we did our best,” South Korean manager Kim In-sik said through an interpreter. “I myself have no dissatisfaction. We kept coming back.”

Asked about allowing Suzuki to hit with two runners in scoring position instead of walking him intentionally, Kim replied: “I don’t know why the pitcher tried to pitch directly to Ichiro. I did not understand. In the end, it

did not work out for us. The pitcher and the catcher did not communicate well in terms of their signs. And in the end, that led to the hit by (Suzuki). Of course I have a regret as to what happened.”

Suzuki said he wasn’t surprised he wasn’t walked.

“There was (Hiroyuki) Nakajima (on deck), and he is a batter you wanted to avoid,” Suzuki said. “So there was a possibility for the bases to be loaded, and I knew they would want to fight against that, so I wasn’t at all surprised.”

After the medal presentations, the champions posed with the trophy behind a large Japanese flag that was laid out on the field, and then carried it around the entire stadium. Japanese fans stuck around Dodger Stadium for nearly an hour celebrating.

Japan’s Daisuke Matsuzaka won the MVP award for the second straight time after going 3-0 — the same record he had in the first WBC. The Boston Red Sox right-hander had a 2.45 ERA in 14 2-3 innings over three starts. □

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NBA Roundup

Murray leads Hawks over T-wolves

ATLANTA (AP) — Flip Murray scored a season-best 30 points while Mike Bibby and Joe Johnson each added 20 as the Atlanta Hawks won their season-high eighth straight home game, beating the Minnesota Timberwolves 109-97 on Monday night. It was Atlanta's eighth win in nine games and the Hawks are 28-7 at Philips Arena. It was the fifth straight loss for the Timberwolves.

The home streak is the longest for Atlanta since Nov. 12, 1996-Feb. 12, 1997, when the Hawks won 20 in row. Atlanta has three tough ones at home starting Wednesday night against the San Antonio Spurs, then Friday night against Boston and Sunday against the Los Angeles Lakers.

Randy Foye led Minnesota with 19 points, while Kevin Love added 17.

Celtics 90, Clippers 77

At Boston, Ray Allen scored 20 points and the Boston Celtics, sparked by an alley-oop dunk from Kevin Garnett, pulled away from the Los Angeles Clippers.

Rajon Rondo added 14 points and seven assists, while Kendrick Perkins scored 12 points and had 13 rebounds for Boston (54-18).

Garnett played 18 minutes, hitting all five field-goal attempts while scoring 12 points. He added two rebounds and two assists in his third game back since missing 13 with a sprained right knee.

Magic 106, Knicks 102

At New York, Dwight Howard had 29 points and 14 rebounds, Hedo Turkoglu led a big fourth-quarter rally, and the Orlando Magic tuned up for a showdown with Boston by beating the New York Knicks.

Turkoglu scored 12 of his 16 points in the final period for the Magic, who now need one win to clinch their second straight Southeast Division title. That could come Wednesday, when they host the Celtics in a game where second place in the Eastern Conference will be at stake.

Orlando is a game behind Boston for the No. 2 seed. Courtney Lee scored 22 points on some clutch free throws shooting for the Magic, who have won three in a row, the last two coming in a sweep of a home-and-home series with the Knicks.

Nate Robinson scored 19 for New York, which dropped its fifth straight in a late-season collapse after entertaining hopes of a playoff spot a week ago.

At Miami, Dwyane Wade scored 27 points to top his own Miami single-season record, plus added eight assists as the Heat easily beat the Memphis Grizzlies.

Wade now has 2,064 points this season, 24 more than his previous best, set in the 2005-06 championship season. He got the record on a layup 2 minutes into the game, part of an 11-0 start that got Miami rolling.

Michael Beasley had 17 points and nine rebounds, Udonis Haslem scored 11 points and Jamaal Magloire finished with 10 points and a season-high 12 rebounds for Miami.

O.J. Mayo scored 21 for the Grizzlies, who started a four-game road trip by losing for the 17th time in 19 games. Rudy Gay was held to eight for Memphis, matching his third-lowest output this season.

Bulls 101, Wizards 99

At Washington, Ben Gordon scored seven of his



Atlanta Hawks guard Ronald Murray (22) shoots past Minnesota Timberwolves forward Craig Smith and guard Randy Foye, left, during the first half of their NBA basketball game Monday, March 23, 2009, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

21 points in the final 3½ minutes, and the Chicago Bulls nearly stumbled again in their mediocre march toward the playoffs Monday night before hanging on for a victory over Washington.

In other NBA games it was, Philadelphia 104, Portland 103 in OT; Phoenix 118, Denver 115; Chicago 101, Washington 99; Miami 94, Memphis 82; Orlando 106, New York 102; and Celtic 90, Los Angeles Clippers 77. □

Pacquiao 2008 fighter of year by BWAA

NEW YORK (AP) — Filipino star Manny Pacquiao has been voted fighter of the year by the Boxing Writers Association of America after a dominating win over Oscar De La Hoya.

Joe Calzaghe was runner-up, but voted manager of the year on Tuesday for guiding his own career. The undefeated former super middleweight champion recently retired.

Pacquiao won three times in 2008, highlighted by his stoppage of De La Hoya. Pacquiao's trainer, Freddie Roach, was voted trainer of the year, the third time he has won the award.

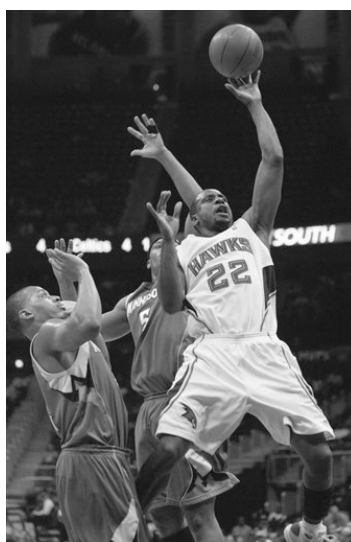
The super bantamweight rubber match between Israel

This is a Dec. 6, 2008 file photo showing WBC lightweight champion Manny Pacquiao celebrating his victory over Oscar De La Hoya after their welterweight boxing match in Las Vegas. Pacquiao won by TKO after the end of the 8th round. Pacquiao has been voted fighter of the year by the Boxing Writers Association of America, Tuesday March 24, 2009.

Associated Press

Vazquez and Rafael Marquez was chosen fight of the year. Vazquez won the fight by split decision.

The awards will be presented at the annual BWAA dinner on June 12 in New York. □



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Philadelphia Flyers' Jeff Carter, center, watches as his wrist shot goes past New Jersey Devils goalie Martin Brodeur and into the net during the third period of an NHL hockey game Monday, March 23, 2009, in Philadelphia. Also looking on are Devils' defenseman Niclas Havelid, left, and Flyers Joffrey Lupul, front. The Flyers won 4-2.

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Jeff Carter and Simon Gagne scored early in the third period to lift the Philadelphia Flyers past the New Jersey Devils 4-2 on Monday night.

Carter scored his 40th goal and Gagne his 30th only 2:06 apart to hand Martin Brodeur only his third loss in 12 games since returning from biceps surgery.

The Flyers have won three straight behind goalie Martin Biron, and got a goal and an assist from Danny Briere.

Brendan Shanahan and Jamie Langenbrunner scored for New

NHL Capsules

Gagne, Carter lead Flyers over Devils

Jersey, which missed a chance to clinch a playoff spot.

Hurricanes 3, Panthers 2, OT

At Sunrise, Florida, Ray Whitney's goal 1:37 into overtime gave surging Carolina a victory over Florida.

Tuomo Ruutu and Patrick Eaves also scored for Carolina, which improved to 8-1-2 in its last 11 games and moved past Pittsburgh into fifth place in the Eastern Conference.

Jay Bouwmeester and Cory Stillman scored for Florida, which has lost six of seven. The Panthers tied idle Montreal for eighth in the East with 81 points. Florida has played one more game.

Cam Ward, in his 22nd consecutive start for Carolina, made 37 saves. Tomas Vokoun stopped 28 shots.

Flames 5, Red Wings 3

At Calgary, Alberta, Mike Cammalleri scored a goal and added two assists as Calgary took advantage of shaky goalie Chris Osgood to beat Detroit.

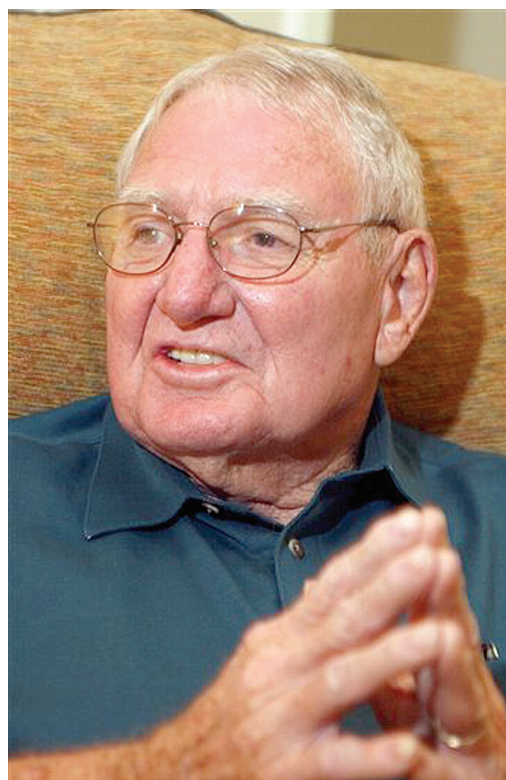
Osgood had been in net for each of Detroit's victories in a four-game winning streak. However, he made an early exit.

The only goal of the first period came at 10:57 when Dion Phaneuf scored his 11th goal on Calgary's second shot. Phaneuf's harmless-looking snap shot from just over the blue line beat Osgood on his glove side.

Jamie Lundmark, Curtis Glencross and Craig Conroy, into an empty net, also scored for Calgary.

Detroit rallied in the final 10 minutes behind goals from Johan Franzen and Jiri Hudler to get within 4-3. Pavel Datsyuk added his 30th goal for the Red Wings.□

MLB Hall of Famer George Kell dead at 86



By NOAH TRISTER

AP Sports Writer

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (AP) — George Kell, a Hall of Fame third baseman who outdueled Ted Williams for the 1949 American League batting title, died on Tuesday. He was 86.

Jackson's Funeral Home in Newport confirmed the death but did not give a cause.

The Hall of Fame said he died in his sleep at his home in Swifton. Kell was severely injured in a car crash in 2004

In this May 23, 2002 file photo, Hall of Fame third baseman George Kell talks about his long career as a player and broadcaster, at his Swifton, Ark., home. Kell died according to a funeral home in Newport, Ark., on Tuesday, March 24, 2009.

Associated Press

but was able to walk with a cane about six months later.

Kell edged Williams for the 1949 batting crown, hitting .34291 while the Boston Red Sox great finished at .34276. Kell played 15 seasons in the AL, hitting more than .300 nine times and compiling a career average of .306.

He was a 10-time Major League Baseball All-Star. Kell played from 1943-1957 with the Philadelphia Athletics, Detroit Tigers, Boston Red Sox, Chicago White Sox and Baltimore Orioles.

He batted more than .300 each year from 1946-53. He played for the Tigers during his batting duel with Williams.

After he retired, Kell broadcast Tigers games from 1959 to 1996.

Kell grew up in Swifton and lived in the same house from his birth to when it burned down in 2001, then was rebuilt on the same land.□

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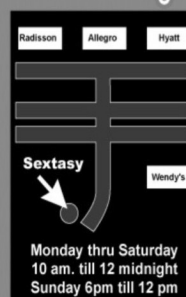
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Foto de archivo de la secretaria de Estado estadounidense, Hillary Clinton. REUTERS/Molly Riley

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - La secretaria de Estado estadounidense, Hillary Clinton, viaja a México el miércoles para reunirse con el presidente mexicano Felipe Calderón y otros funcionarios de alto rango.

A continuación algunos datos acerca de la relación entre Estados Unidos y México, y la lucha en contra de las drogas ilegales y la violencia asociada.

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* Washington anunció el martes un plan de 184 millones de dólares para luchar contra el contrabando y tomará medidas drásticas contra el contrabando fronterizo.

IMMIGRACION

* Se estima que aproximadamente 12 millones de trabajadores indocumentados viven en Estados Unidos. Poco más de la mitad son mexicanos.

* Obama ganó dos tercios del voto hispano en la elección presidencial y muchos esperan que apruebe reformas que den un estatus legal a más inmigrantes.

* Al menos 4,500 mexicanos han muerto intentando cruzar ilegalmente la frontera hacia Estados Unidos desde que Washington aumentó sustancialmente los controles fronterizos en 1994, según grupos de derechos de los

inmigrantes, basados en datos de la Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores de México.

COMERCIO ECONOMIA

* México es el segundo mayor mercado de exportación para Estados Unidos detrás de Canadá y es su tercer socio comercial más importante. En el 2008, el comercio bilateral entre Estados Unidos y México fue de 367.500 millones de dólares.

* Cientos de fábricas están establecidas en la frontera de México con Estados Unidos y

sólo China y Canadá venden mayor cantidad de bienes a Estados Unidos.

* Desde que el Tratado de Libre Comercio de América del Norte (TLCAN) entró en vigencia el 1 de enero de 1994, el comercio entre México y Estados Unidos creció más de cuatro veces llegando a 367.500 millones de dólares en el 2008.

* México es un proveedor líder de petróleo a Estados Unidos y las automotrices estadounidenses tienen cerca de una docena de fábricas en México. □



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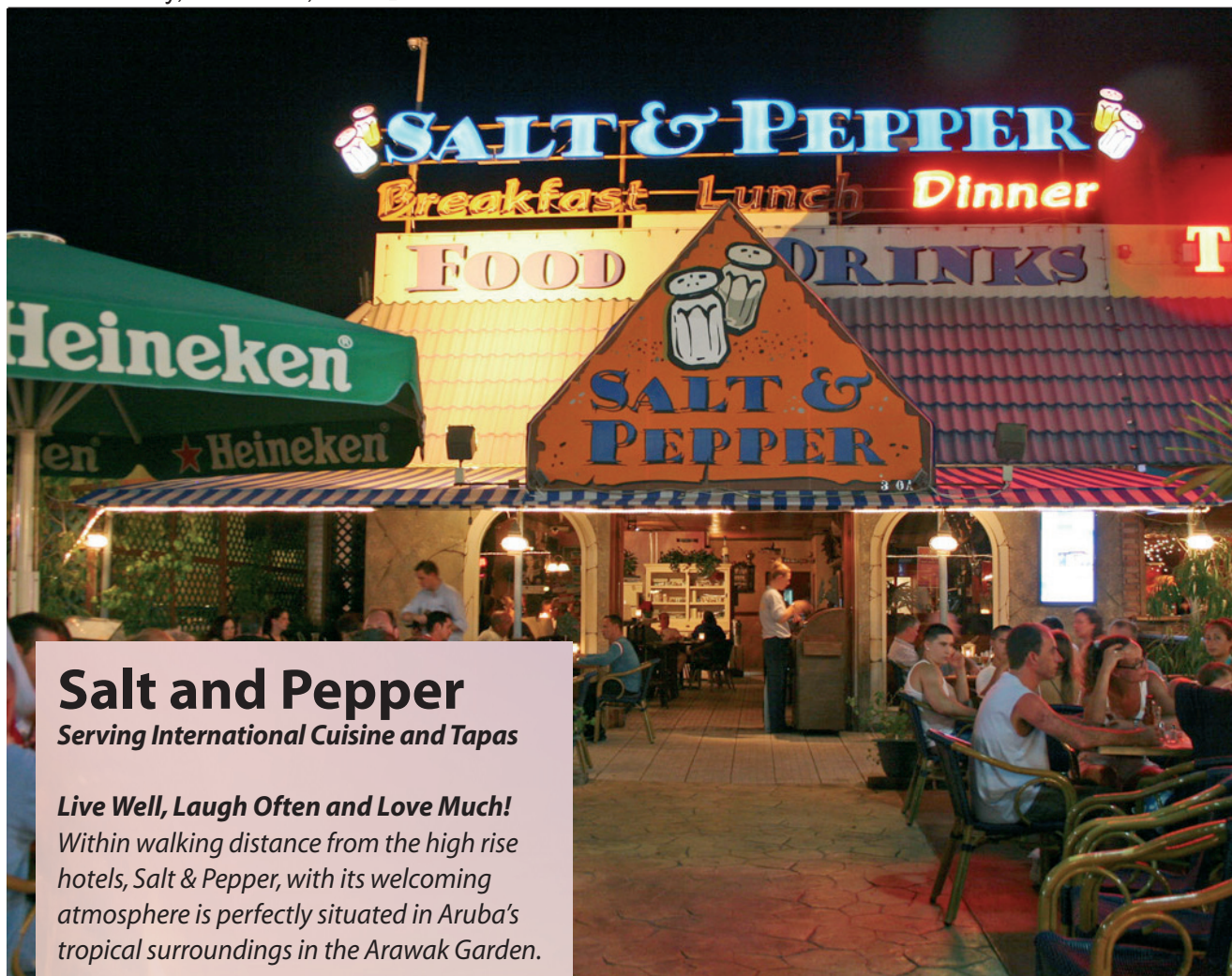
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